

Annotated Agenda
MAFAC Meeting – May 22 - May 24, 2012
Seattle, WA

1. Title of Discussion: Comment on Coral Status Review Report & Draft Management Report

2. Presenters: Keith Rizzardi
Lance Smith, Supervisory Biologist, Protected Resources Division, Pacific Islands Regional Office (via webinar)

3. Objective/Purpose: [Informational/Action]:

Determine whether MAFAC wishes to submit comments or information on the Status Review and draft Management Report related to the management and protection of 82 species of coral.

4. Background/Synopsis

As part of our ongoing process to evaluate 82 species of coral from the Caribbean and Pacific for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), NOAA invited public review of two reports, a scientific [Status Review Report](#) and a [draft Management Report](#). Our review of these 82 species of corals has been the most complex ESA listing process NOAA Fisheries has undertaken. NOAA will use the additional input to ensure that the best scientific information available will be considered as we develop our 12-month finding in response to a listing petition.

The release of these documents is not a part of the normal rulemaking process – it is an engagement process that allows us to be transparent and open in our decision making. Should NOAA Fisheries determine that a listing is warranted, we will publish a proposed rule in December 2012 for additional public comment.

What Additional Information is NOAA Interested In?

We are particularly interested in receiving information on the following:

- Relevant scientific information collected or produced since the completion of the Status Review Report in 2011, or any relevant scientific information not included in the Report.
- Relevant management information not included in the draft Management Report.

The public review process began on April 13, 2012, and ends on July 31, 2012. Instructions on how to submit comments and/or information can be found here:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/04/4_13_12corals_petition.html.

As part of this review, NOAA also plans to host two regional public listening sessions and two scientific workshops focused on corals this summer. The specific dates, times, and location for the regional listening sessions and scientific workshops will be announced in May.

5. Options listed from 1 to n:

- a) MAFAC can elect not to submit information or comment (no action).
- b) MAFAC can engage and assign a single member to work on developing a response and report back to MAFAC.
- c) MAFAC can direct the Protected Resources Subcommittee to work on developing a response and report back to MAFAC.
- d) Some combination of options b or c, above.
- e) Other??

6. Preferred Recommendation:

Record of Decision:

Decision, Next Step(s) and/or Action:

Assigned to:

Due Date: